

OBTAINING A MARRIAGE LICENSE

You may obtain a marriage license from the City Clerk's Office at the following address:

City Clerk's Office
Somerville City Hall
93 Highland Avenue
Somerville, MA 02143
(617) 625-6600 x4100
<http://www.somervillema.gov>

The City Clerk's Office accepts marriage license applications Monday-Wednesday, 8:30 AM-4:00 PM, Thursday 8:30 AM-7:00 PM, and Friday 8:30 AM-12:00 Noon. The application process takes approximately 30 minutes to complete.

The fee is \$40.00. The City accepts checks, money orders or cash. Checks should be made payable to "City of Somerville."

To apply for a marriage license, both applicants must appear together at the City Clerk's Office and bring the following:

- a photo ID for each applicant.
- the Social Security number for each applicant who has been issued one. Federal statutes require the collection of Social Security numbers at the time of application. You do not need to bring your Social Security Card; just have the number available.
- For each applicant under 18 years old, a Court Marriage of Minor Order must be obtained from the probate court or district court where the minor resides. The applicant must appear in court with his or her partner and his or her parent, and obtain a judge's permission to marry, before applying for the marriage license. For each such applicant, bring a certified birth record and the court order showing the judge's permission to marry.

There is no longer a requirement for a medical certificate, or any blood work.

Once your application for a marriage license is complete, the license will be issued 3 days later (licenses applied for Monday can be picked up Thursday; licenses applied for Tuesday can be picked up Friday; licenses applied for Wednesday, Thursday or Friday can be picked up the following Monday). Anyone can pick it up at the City Clerk's Office, and there is no charge. Note that City Hall closes early on Fridays, so it must be picked up by 12:00 Noon on Friday.

If you want to waive the 3 day waiting period, you must bring an approved Court Petition for a Marriage Without Delay showing a judge's permission to waive the waiting period. The Middlesex County Probate Court is one court that issues these petitions, and is located at 208 Cambridge Street, Cambridge, 617-768-5850.

Please proof-read your license carefully with your partner before the ceremony happens, and make sure there are no errors. It will cost \$40.00 to make any corrections once the marriage is solemnized.

The marriage must be solemnized within 60 days of the day you originally apply, or the license will expire. Also, the marriage must be solemnized in Massachusetts, or it will not be valid.

A Priest, Minister, Rabbi, or other religious official, or a Justice of the Peace may perform the ceremony. A Justice of the Peace will not require witnesses to the ceremony. Some religions do require witnesses, so contact the person performing the ceremony to see if witnesses are necessary.

Out of State clergy may perform the ceremony in Massachusetts if an authorization has been obtained prior to the ceremony from the Secretary of State's Office (McCormack Building, Public Records Division, Department of the State Secretary, One Ashburton Place, Room 1701, Boston, 617-727-2836). The marriage license will not be registered unless the required authorization is enclosed with the license.

The person who performs the ceremony must complete and sign the license in black ink only, and return it to the city or town where it was issued. That city or town is the only place where the license will be registered. The license must be returned or the marriage will not be registered.

If you have been divorced you do not have to bring any divorce papers when you apply, but your divorce must be final at the time of the application.

Be aware that you may not marry certain relatives, as follows: no man shall marry his mother, grandmother, daughter, granddaughter, sister, stepmother, grandfather's wife, grandson's wife, wife's mother, wife's grandmother, wife's daughter, wife's granddaughter, brother's daughter, sister's daughter, father's sister or mother's sister, and no woman shall marry her father, grandfather, son, grandson, brother, stepfather, grandmother's husband, daughter's husband, granddaughter's husband, husband's grandfather, husband's son, husband's grandson, brother's son, sister's son, father's brother or mother's brother.

If you do not live in Massachusetts, and an impediment to marriage exists in your state of residence, a question exists as to whether the marriage solemnized in Massachusetts will be legally recognized in your state of residence. If you have concerns, you should consult with an attorney.